

Annex 1

Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition (2011-2012)

Rules (English Division)

1. Enrolment

- 1.1. The competition is organized by the Hong Kong Bar Association (“**the HKBA**”).
- 1.2. The competition is targeted at secondary schools in Hong Kong.
- 1.3. The competition is divided into English and Chinese (Cantonese) divisions. Participation is limited to 16 teams for each division.
- 1.4. Each participating school may send one debating team to compete in each of the English and Chinese (Cantonese) divisions.
- 1.5. If the number of applications received exceeds the vacancies available, participation will be decided in a draw to be conducted by the HKBA. The HKBA will notify the successful applicant schools in due course by e-mail.
- 1.6. The applicant schools which were finalist (champion and first runner up) of last year’s competition is automatically entitled to participate in this year’s competition, without the need to take part in the draw.

2. Mode of Competition

- 2.1. The competition will be conducted on a knockout basis.
- 2.2. The competition comprises preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds.
- 2.3. The HKBA will conduct a draw to decide opposing teams, motions and sides for the preliminary round at a briefing seminar.
- 2.4. Motions and sides for subsequent rounds of debates will also be decided by a draw conducted by the HKBA and participating schools will be notified of the results by e-mail.
- 2.5. Motions for the debates will focus on socio-legal issues and will be set by the HKBA.

3. Teams

- 3.1. Each debating team shall consist of 4 speakers on stage. Participating schools shall submit a list of team members to the

- HKBA when sending the prescribed application form to the HKBA.
- 3.2. Team members shall appear in school/team uniform in every debate.
 - 3.3. The team members on stage shall be Form 4 (or such other equivalent grade) or above.
 - 3.4. Each team shall nominate one of its members as team captain.

4. Correspondence with HKBA

- 4.1. Each applicant school shall provide telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of a teacher-in-charge and a designated team member when submitting the prescribed application form to the HKBA.
- 4.2. All subsequent correspondence between the participating school and the HKBA will be conducted by way of e-mail.
- 4.3. It is the responsibility of participating schools to check their e-mails regularly and to respond punctually in accordance with any deadline set by the HKBA.
- 4.4. Default or delay in replying to the e-mails of the HKBA may result in disqualification of the participating team in question.

5. Adjudicators

- 5.1. There shall be 1 or 2 adjudicator(s) for debates in the preliminary and quarter-final rounds.
- 5.2. There shall be 2 or 3 adjudicators for debates in the semi-final and final rounds.
- 5.3. Adjudicators will be invited from the Bar, the Judiciary, the Academia or such other field as the HKBA deems appropriate.
- 5.4. The decision of the HKBA as to the appointment of adjudicator(s) in any round shall be final.

6. Venue

- 6.1. Debates will be hosted at local universities or such other places as may be designated at the discretion of the HKBA.
- 6.2. Participating teams will be notified of the details in advance by e-mail before each respective round of debates.

7. Format of Debates

- 7.1. In the preliminary round, each team shall deliver 4 speeches by its speakers on stage, namely the opening speaker, the 1st speaker, the 2nd speaker and the concluding speaker.

- 7.2. There will be an additional floor time session in the quarter-final round and an additional free debate session in the semi-final round.
- 7.3. In the final round, there will be an additional floor time session as well as an additional free debate session.
- 7.4. At no time during a debate shall the audience communicate with any debaters.

8. Floor Time Session

- 8.1. The floor time session consists of questions posed from the floor to be answered (or responded to) by the other team's speakers on stage. Each question shall be posed by different students from the floor.
- 8.2. A student from the affirmative side shall begin first by posing questions to the opposition.
- 8.3. There shall be a preparation time of 15 seconds, after which a bell will ring once.
- 8.4. The opposition shall then send one of its speakers on stage to answer the question and/or respond.
- 8.5. This is followed by a student from the opposition posing questions to the affirmative side, so on and so forth.
- 8.6. If no question is posed by a student from the floor:-
 - i) the corresponding team will be penalized by deduction of marks on the floor question; and
 - ii) the other team shall still send one of its speakers on stage to respond.
- 8.7. In the quarter-final round, participating team shall each have 2 chances to ask questions (and in turn answer questions and/or respond). In the final round, participating team shall each have 3 chances to ask questions (and in turn answer questions and/or respond).

9. Free Debate Session

- 9.1. The affirmative side and the opposition will each have a designated duration of time to speak. Time will run on a cumulative basis for each side separately.
- 9.2. At least 3 debaters from each team shall have spoken in this session. The team which is in breach of such a rule will be penalized by a deduction of 5 marks in its scores with each of the adjudicators.
- 9.3. Each speaker shall stand up before he or she begins and sit down

after finishing his or her speech.

- 9.4. The affirmative side shall begin first. One of its speakers on stage shall stand up and speak.
- 9.5. Once the said speaker sits down, the clock will begin to run for the opposition. A speaker from the opposition shall then stand up and respond immediately and shall sit down after he or she finishes.
- 9.6. The affirmative side and the opposition shall speak in turn until one of the teams has used up the entire duration of time attributed to it. The other side shall then send one of its team members to use up all the remaining duration of time.

10. Order and Duration of Speeches

- 10.1. The opening speaker of the affirmative side will speak first, followed by the opening speaker of the opposition.
- 10.2. The 1st and 2nd speakers of each side will then deliver their speeches in turn.
- 10.3. After the 2nd speaker of the opposition has spoken or, if there is any floor time session and/or free debate session, after completion of the same, each team shall be given 1 minute to prepare for concluding speeches.
- 10.4. The concluding speaker of the opposition shall speak first, followed by the concluding speaker of the affirmative side.
- 10.5. The duration of speeches for each side are as follows:

	Duration			
	Preliminary	Quarter-final	Semi-final	Final
Opening speaker (aff/opp)	3 min	3 min	3 min	3 min
1 st speaker (aff/opp)	3 min	3 min	3 min	3 min
2 nd speaker (aff/opp)	3min	3 min	3 min	3 min
Floor questions	Nil	45 sec (2 questions for each side)	Nil	45 sec (3 questions for each side)
Answers/ Responses	Nil	1 min 30 sec (2 answers for each side)	Nil	1 min 30 sec (3 answers for each side)
Free Debate (aff/opp)	Nil	Nil	4 min (each side)	4 min (each side)
Preparation	1 min	1 min	1 min	1 min
Concluding	3 min 30 sec	3 min 30 sec	4 min	4 min

speaker (opp/aff)				
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11. Audio Guides (Bell)

11.1. Speakers on stage:

- 11.1.1.A bell will ring once after which a speaker on stage shall begin his or her speech.
- 11.1.2.A bell will ring once again when the speaker still has 30 seconds left.
- 11.1.3.A bell will ring twice when the speaker has used up the time being allotted.
- 11.1.4.A bell will ring three times to indicate that the 10 seconds' grace period is up.

11.2. Floor Time Session:

- 11.2.1.A bell will ring once to indicate the start of a floor speaker's time.
- 11.2.2.A bell will ring once again when the floor speaker still has 15 seconds left.
- 11.2.3.A bell will ring twice when the floor speaker has used up the time being allotted and he or she shall stop his or her speech immediately.
- 11.2.4.A bell will ring once after the 15 seconds' preparation time is up. A speaker from the other team must then answer the question and/or respond. A bell will ring once immediately to indicate the start of a speaker's time for answering floor questions.
- 11.2.5.A bell will ring once again when the speaker still has 30 seconds left.
- 11.2.6.A bell will ring twice when the speaker has used up the time being allotted and he or she shall stop his or her speech immediately.

11.3. Free Debate Session:

- 11.3.1.A bell will ring once after which an affirmative side's speaker on stage shall begin his or her speech.
- 11.3.2.Another bell will ring once after which an opposition's speaker may first begin to speak.
- 11.3.3.A bell will ring once again when either side has 30 seconds left.
- 11.3.4.A bell will ring twice when either side has used up the entire duration of time being allotted to it. The other side shall then send one of its speakers on stage to speak to use up the remaining time when another bell will ring twice.

11.4. The audio guides (bell) for each round of debate are as follows:

Speaker	Rounds	Start	Reminder	End	End of grace period
Opening, 1 st & 2 nd speakers	All Rounds	0 sec (ring once)	2 min 30 sec (ring once)	3 min (ring twice)	3 min 10 sec (ring thrice)
Floor questions	Quarter-final & Final only	0 sec (ring once)	30 sec (ring once)	45 sec (ring twice)	Nil
Preparation time		0 sec (ring once)		15 sec (ring once)	
Answers		0 sec (ring once)	1 min (ring once)	1 min 30 sec (ring twice)	Nil
Free Debate	Semi-final & Final only	0 sec (ring once)	3 min 30 sec (ring once)	4 min (ring twice)	Nil
Preparation time	All Rounds	0 sec (ring once)		1 min (ring once)	
Concluding speaker	Preliminary & Quarter-final	0 sec (ring once)	3 min (ring once)	3 min 30 sec (ring twice)	3 min 40 sec (ring thrice)
	Semi-final & Final	0 sec (ring once)	3 min 30 sec (ring once)	4 min (ring twice)	4 min 10 sec (ring thrice)

12. Overtime Penalties

12.1. There will be a 10 seconds' grace period for speeches by the opening, 1st, 2nd and concluding speakers of each team.

12.2. Transgression of the grace period will be penalized by a deduction of 0.5 point per second for each adjudicator.

13. Judging criteria

13.1. If there is only one adjudicator, the team with the higher score will be the winner.

13.2. In other occasions, the team with the higher number of votes will

be the winner of the debate. A vote will go to the team with the higher score in respect of a particular adjudicator.

- 13.3. In the event of split votes, the result shall be determined by the adjudicators.
- 13.4. The adjudicator(s) shall give marks to individual speakers on stage at a maximum of 100 points comprising contents (40 points), delivery (30 points), organisation (20 points) and poise (10 points).
- 13.5. The adjudicator(s) shall give marks to individual floor questions at a maximum of 15 points and answers to floor questions at a maximum of 35 points.
- 13.6. The adjudicator(s) shall give marks to each participating team as a whole for the free debate session at a maximum of 100 points comprising contents (40 points), delivery (30 points), organisation (20 points) and poise (10 points).
- 13.7. Decision by the adjudicator(s) shall be final.
- 13.8. The HKBA reserves its right to vary the judging criteria and the mark allocation by advance notice.

14. Defaults and Non-Compliance

- 14.1. Any default or non-compliance of the rules by participating schools may be penalized by the HKBA as it may deem fit, including without limitation disqualification from participation in the competition.
- 14.2. If there is any breach of the rule during a debate, the Chairman of the debate has discretion to penalize the participating team in question, including without limitation disqualification from participation in the competition.

15. Amendments of the Rules

- 15.1. The HKBA reserves the right to amend the rules without prior notice. However, the participating teams will be informed of the amendments at the earliest convenience.